Diversion of EAS funds by DGHC

2438. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount was diverted to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in 1998-99 on account of E.A.S.;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of money;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to this, adequate funds have not reached the Block and Panchayat level of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong; and

(d) for what purpose the money is being spent by DGHC and where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) During 1998-99, first instalment of Employment Assurance Scheme amounting to Rs. 180 lakh, required to be remitted to Siliguri Mahakuma Rural Development Agency, was inadvertently remitted to the account of Darjeeling Council Rural Development Agency under the control of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. Due to this inadvertent remittance, the funds have not reached to the block covered under Siliguri Mahakuma Rural Development Agency. This Ministry has requested the Chairman, Darjeeling Council Rural Development Agency to transfer the funds to Siliguri Mahakuma Rural Development Agency. The West Bengal Government has also informed that they have also requested the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council to remit this amount to the Siliguri Mahakuma Rural Development Agency.

Poverty alleviation programme in Andhra Pradesh

2439. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Development Programme proposed to undertake poverty alleviation programmes in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the programme is expected to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assisted Poverty Alleviation Project in India (RAS/96/600) is currently under implementation in 20 mandals in three districts of Mahabubnagar, Kumool and Ananthapur of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The basic objective of the project is to demonstrate sustainable and replicable initiatives in social mobilisation for poverty alleviation. The project facilitated organisation of poor into 2,981 self-help groups with 45,567 members in 20 mandals in 3 districts. The self-help groups of women have demonstrated sound group management and financial management norms. The women groups have been enabled to build their own capital through savings to a tune of Rs. 32.71 millions and succeeded in accessing credit for sustainable livelihoods to a tune of Rs. 59.20 millions Rs. 29.57 millions under programme assistance and Rs. 29.63 millions from formal credit institutions and revolving fund under (DWCRA).

(c) The programme is currently under implementation since 1996.

Satellite based Communication Network for Rural Development

2440. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a satellite based communications network for rural development operations spread across the country has been proposed in the draft report of Information Technology Plan for Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Report are:

(i) Building an advanced IT framework to support rural development administration.

(ii) Creation of management, decision & Planning support systems at all the levels for effective on-line planning, monitoring and management of wide spectrum of schemes and programmes.

(iii) Employing IT interface in poverty alleviation programmes.

(iv) Utilisation of information technology for awareness generation among people.

Government considers information Technology in Rural Development as a priority item.

Jobs under JRY in Tamil Nadu

2441. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons provided jobs under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) in the country, during the last six months; and

(b) the number of persons provided jobs under the scheme in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Kanyakumari District, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) and (b) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) a Centrally sponsored programme, is being implemented throughout the country except in Delhi and Chandigarh, for providing additional gainful employment to the unemployed and underemployed persons both men and women living below poverty line in the rural areas. The physical performance under JRY during the year 1998-99 (April, 98 to January, 99), for the country, in Tamil Nadu and in Kanyakumari district is as given below:—

All India	2394.19 lakh mandays (available till December, 98)
Tamil Nadu	253.06 lakh mandays
Kanyakumari district	7.38 lakh mandays

Pitiable condition of Panchapalii Ibrisingh Road 2442. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that, Panchapalli-Ibrisingh Road in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa under Erasama Block is in a pitiable condition;

(b) whether people of the nearby villages face immense difficulties in reaching the National Highway to Paradeep port;

(c) the amount spent on repair of the said road during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) by when it is likely to be metalled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Roads is a State subject. State Governments are responsible for construction and maintenance of roads for which, funds are allocated by the Planning Commission under the State plan for construction and maintenance of roads. Repairing the Panchapalli-Ibrisingh Road in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa is within the purview of the State Government.

(b) The Central Government has not been informed of difficulties being faced by the people of nearby villages in reaching the National Highway to Paradeep port.

(c) The Central Government does not monitor the expenditure on repair of roads as it is a State subject.

(d) The Government does not have any plans to metal roads in the States, this being a State subject. The State Governments are free to make their own plans and apportion funds allocated by the Planning Commission under the State Plan between construction and maintenance of roads.

Villages connected to main transportation line in U.P.

2443. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages connected by link road to main transportation line in Pauri Garhwal district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any proposal